United Nations

Report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly on an Agenda for Development

General Assembly
Official Records • Fiftieth Session
Supplement No.45 (A/50/45)

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its forty-ninth session, the General Assembly decided, by resolution 49/126 of 19 December 1994, to establish an open-ended ad hoc working group of the Assembly in early 1995 under the chairmanship of its President to elaborate further an agenda for development. In its decision 49/497 of 14 September 1995, the Assembly decided that the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group should continue its work at the fiftieth session of the General Assembly with a view to finalizing an agenda for development, and report thereon during the fiftieth session of the Assembly.

2. The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group held four sessions during the fiftieth session of the Assembly. The first session was held from 22 January to 2 February 1996, the second from 20 to 31 May 1996, the third from 17 to 21 June 1996 and the fourth from 3 to 6 September 1996.

3. The President of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, Mr. Diogo Freitas do Amaral (Portugal), served as Chairman of the Working Group.

4. An organizational meeting of the Working Group was held on 28 November 1995, at which Mr. René Valéry Mongbé (Benin) and Mr. Peter Osvald (Sweden) were reconfirmed as Vice-Chairmen of the Working Group.

II. MODALITIES

5. At its first session in 1996, the Working Group had before it a revised synthesis text prepared by the two Vice-Chairmen. That document contained a revised synthesis for chapters I and II, based on discussions held at previous sessions during the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly, and an earlier synthesis by the Vice-Chairmen, as well as a first synthesis on chapter III. At the end of the session, the Group entrusted the two Vice-Chairmen with providing a revised synthesis text on chapter III, based on the discussions held during the session and on additional proposals by Member States.

6. At its second session in 1996, the Working Group had before it a document containing paragraphs of chapters I and II as amended and/or accepted by the Group (A/AC.250/CRP.1), as well as a revised synthesis text by the Vice-Chairmen on chapter III (A/AC.250/CRP.1/Add.1).

7. At its third session in 1996, the Working Group continued its examination of chapters I and II only.

8. At its fourth session, also in 1996, the Working Group had before it a document containing proposed amendments to outstanding paragraphs as well as agreed paragraphs in all three chapters (A/AC.250/CRP.2) and continued its examination of chapter III only.

9. The Working Group, at its final meeting, on 6 September, concluded its work for the fiftieth session of the General Assembly and decided to recommend that its work on an agenda for development should continue during the fifty-first session of the Assembly, building on the work done in the course of the forty-ninth and fiftieth sessions.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

10. At the final meeting, on 6 September, the Working Group decided to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

"The General Assembly, having considered the report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on an Agenda for Development, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 49/126 of 19 December 1994 and General Assembly decision 49/497 of 14 September 1995:

"(a) Takes note of the report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group;

"(b) Decides that the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group should continue its work at the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, with a view to concluding its work as soon as possible, taking into account the progress achieved during the forty-ninth and fiftieth sessions of the Assembly, and report thereon during the fifty-first session of the Assembly."